(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor;

(c) the total investment made by the Government so far for introducing ISDN; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to remove bottlenecks in the functioning of ISDN and to make it functional?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, it is up to the mark.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No separate investment in infrastucture is being made. The existing new technology telephone exchanges are being utilised to provide this service. However, an amount of Rs. 2.48 crores has been spent for procuring the Customer Premises Equipments.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Telephone Complaints in Gujarat

2545. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Telephone Taluka Bhanvad of Jamnagar district of Gujarat, Jamnagar city Gujarat circle, Ahmedabad has received complaints/letters from 'Jupiter' Cement Industries Limited of Taluka Bhanvad regarding non-functioning of the Telephones;

(b) if so, the number and details of such complaints received each months during 1994 to till date;

(c) whether the Members of Parliament have written to the concerned officials in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the actions taken against the employees and officials who are responsible in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. of Complaints received are as below :

Year	Month	No. of Complaints
1	2	3
1994	August	2
	September	1
1995	October	1
	December	1
1996	January	1
	July	2
	August	3
	September	2
	November	1
	December	1
1997	May	2
	June	3

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Hon'ble MP has enclosed copy of the letter of party addressed to TDM Jamnagar stating that the Telephone connections reported working were still not working satisfactorily.

(e) Connections to Jupiter Cement Industries Ltd are working on overhead alignment had been adversely affected since June, 1996 due to severe cyclonic rains and hostile environment (Coastal Area). This overhead alignment is being replaced by underground cable. No laxity was found on the part of officials/officers.

Dispute between Rajasthan and NTPC

2546. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Rajashtan and NTPC in regard to tariff for gas based power stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) had represented for amendment in the tariff notifications notified by the Ministry of Power in April. 1994 for NTPC gas based power stations in regard to Calorific Value of the Gas. The issue had been examined by the Central Electricity Authority and the tariff of Gas based power stations of NTPC have since been revised. considering Rajasthan's point of view "Gross Calorific Value" of Gas and revised "Normative Heat rate Values" as approved by CEA. These revised tariff have already been notified by Ministry of Power in January. 1997. RSEB has again represented about the `Normative Heat Rate Values' as approved by CEA.

[Translation]

Power theft in the Country

2547. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated or propose to formulate any action plan to prevent unproductive

use of power, power theft and wastage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enact a new law for conservation of power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Government have taken or propose to take following steps towards efficient use of power & for tackling of theft of electricity :

(i) In order to promote conservation and efficient use of energy, Ministry of Power had constituted the National Energy Conservation Award in 1991. for industrial units who undertake exceptional initiatives in field of energy conservation.

(ii) Moreover, the Central Government is considering proposing an enactment for energy conservation. The main features of the proposed enactment would be to (a) lay down standards and norms for energy consumption for equipment and appliances used in production, supply and consumption of energy, (b) prescribe a scheme for energy labelling and energy audit, (c) provide for an agency to administer aforesaid functions.

(iii) "Natinal Energy Conservation Day" is celebrated every year on 14th December to create awareness regarding energy conservation.

(iv) So far as theft of energy is concerned. Section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 was amended in 1986 to make theft of energy & cognizable offence, with deterrent punishment of upto 3 years imprisonment or fine of not less than Rs. 1000/- or both.

[English]

Metro Project

2548. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the Metro Project in Chennai is likely to be made fully operational;

(b) the total allocation made for the project;

(c) the funds released out of that so far;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred on remaining work of project; and

(e) the reasons for delay in completing the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) MRTS Phase-I from Madras Beach to Luz was sanctioned in 1983-84. Commercial services are already in operation between Madras Beach and Chepauk since 16.11.95. Works on the balance section are in advanced stage and services are likely to commence shortly. A sum of Rs 35 crore has been earmarked during the current year i.e 1997-98 and a balance of Rs 36.13 crore would be required next year to complete the residual work.

The Phase-II of Madras MRTS project from Luz to Vellacheri has been sanctioned in 1996-97 at a total cost of Rs 605.70 crore to be shared between Railways and Government of Tamil Nadu. The preliminary works have been taken in hand and project is likely to be completed in four years subject to availability of adequate funds. A sum of Rs 12 crore has been allotted in the current year (1997-98) and a balance of about Rs 132 crore would be required in the coming years for the Railways share to complete the work.

[Translation]

Setting up of Coach Factory in Bihar

2549. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up an integral Coach factory in Jamalpur/Muzzaffarpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date on which the said proposal was received and the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas

2550. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in the rural and tribal areas of Orissa for the development of women and children;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government to Orissa for such schemes during the last three years; and

(c) the achievements made under these schemes so far?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.